UNITED
NATIONS

EP

Governing Council
of the United Nations
Environment Programme

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/GC.20/18
13 November 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twentieth session
Nairobi, 1-5 February 1999
Item 7 of the provisional agenda

POLICY ISSUES: COORDINATION AND COOPERATION WITHIN AND OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

International conventions and protocols in the field of the environment

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

The present report is submitted in response to Governing Council decision 24 (III) of 30 April 1975 which requests the Executive Director to inform the Council at each session of the status of new and existing conventions in the field of the environment, and to General Assembly resolution 3436 (XXX) of 9 December 1975, which requested the Governing Council to keep the General Assembly informed of any new conventions in that field and of the status of existing conventions. The present report covers the period from 11 December 1996 to 10 November 1998. The information contained in the report is provided by Governments and international organizations acting as depositaries to the respective conventions, in response to a request by the UNEP secretariat. It report also takes into account other information received by the UNEP secretariat during the reporting period. Further information on the objectives, provisions, and signatories and parties of about 230 international environment-related agreements will be found in the 1998 edition of the UNEP Register of International Treaties and Other Agreements in the Field of the Environment, to be issued in due course in accordance with Governing Council decisions 16/5 and 18/25.

K9800086 021298

/...

For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

Suggested action by the Governing Council

The Governing Council may wish to:

Take note of the present report;

Authorize the Executive Director to transmit it, together with any comments made by delegations on the report, as well as any further information which the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme might receive by 31 May 1999, to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, in accordance with resolution 3436 (XXX) of 9 December 1975;

Call on States that have not yet signed, ratified or acceded to conventions and protocols in the field of the environment to do so;

Call also on States and organizations that are in a position to do so to provide the UNEP secretariat with information on new conventions and protocols in the field of the environment as well as information on any changes to the status of the existing conventions and protocols in the field of the environment.

A. Depositaries

1. The secretariat received from the following Governments and intergovernmental organizations information concerning the status of conventions and protocols for which they serve as depositaries:

Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Finland, Switzerland, United Nations, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Atomic Anergy Agency, International Labour Organization, International Maritime Organization, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations, Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Council of Europe, Council of the European Union, Organization of American States, South Pacific Forum Secretariat.

B. Conventions and protocols that have entered into force

2. The secretariat has been informed that the following international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment have entered into force during the period covered by the present report (11 December 1996-10 November 1998):

(a) Convention Concerning the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents (ILO Convention No. 174) adopted in Geneva on 22 June 1993 - entered into force on 3 January 1997;

(b) Protocol Amending the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, adopted on 10 July 1984 - entered into force on 19 January 1997;

(c) Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, adopted in Espoo, Finland on 25 February 1991 - entered into force on 10 September 1997;

(d) Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution concerning the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds or Their Transboundary Fluxes, adopted in Geneva on 18 November 1991 - entered into force on 29 September 1997;

(e) Convention Concerning Safety and Health in Mines (ILO Convention No. 176), adopted in geneva on 22 June 1995 - entered into force on 5 June 1998;

(f) Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions, adopted in Oslo on 14 June 1994 - entered into force on 5 August 1998.

C. New conventions and protocols

3. The secretariat has been informed that the following international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment were concluded during the period covered by the present report (11 December 1996-10 November 1998):

(a) Convention on the Law of Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York on 21 May 1997;

(b) Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, adopted in Vienna on 5 September 1997;

(c) Protocol to Amend the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage, adopted in Vienna on 12 September 1997;

(d) Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage, adopted in Vienna on 12 September 1997;

(e) Protocol of 1997 to Amend the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as amended by the Protocol of 1978 Relating Thereto, adopted in London on 26 September 1997;

(f) Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, adopted in Kyoto on 11 December 1997;

(g) Protocol on the Control of Marine Transboundary Movements and Disposal of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes, adopted in Tehran on 17 March 1998. It is a protocol to the 1978 Kuwait Regional Convention for Cooperation on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution;

(h) Protocol of Amendment to the European Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals Used for Experimental and Other Scientific Purposes, adopted in Strasbourg on 22 June 1998;

(i) Protocol to the 1979 Convention on the Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution on Persistent Organic Pollutants, adopted in Aarhus, Denmark on 24 June 1998;

(j) Protocol to the 1979 Convention on the Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution on Heavy Metals, adopted in Aarhus, Denmark on 24 June 1998;

(k) Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matter, adopted in Aarhus, Denmark on 25 June 1998;

(l) Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, adopted in Rotterdam on 10 September 1998;

(m) Convention on the Protection of the Environment Through Criminal Law, opened for signature in Strasbourg on 4 November 1998.

D. Changes in the status of existing conventions and protocols

4. Changes which occurred since 11 December 1996 with respect to the status of ratification of, or accession to, existing conventions and protocols may be found in the annexed table, which has been prepared on the basis of information received from the depositaries referred to in paragraph 1 above.

Annex

CHANGES TO THE STATUS OF RATIFICATION OF/ACCESSION TO CONVENTIONS AND PROTOCOLS IN THE FIELD OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Title of the instrument/year of adoption	Reporting period: from 11 Dec.1996 up to:	Total number of those ratified /acceded	Date of entry into force of the instrument	Countries/entities that had ratified/acceded to the instrument during the reporting period
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Spices of Wild Fauna and Flora, 1973	15 October 1998	144	1 July 1975	Antigua and Barbuda, Cambodia, Fiji, Jamaica, Latvia, Mauritania, Myanmar, Swaziland, Uzbekistan, Yemen.
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, 1979	29 October 1998	56	1 November 1983	Chad, Liechtenstein, Mauritania, Paraguay, Peru, Romania, Uzbekistan.
Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, 1985	10 November 1998	169	22 September 1988	Belize, Burundi, Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Suriname, Tonga.
Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, 1987	10 November 1998	168	1 January 1989	Belize, Burundi, Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Suriname, Tajikistan, Tonga.
London Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, 1990	10 November 1998	125	10 August 1992	Botswana, Czech Republic, Iran (Islamic republic of), Latvia, Lithuania, Namibia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Tajikistan, Togo, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.
Copenhagen Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, 1992	10 November 1998	83	14 June 1994	Belgium, Belize, Botswana, Brazil, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal, Slovakia, Sri Lanka, Togo, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela.
Montreal Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, 1997	10 November 1998	3	Not yet in force	Canada, Chile, Republic of Korea.

Title of the instrument/year of adoption	Reporting period: from 11 Dec.1996 up to:	Total number of those ratified /acceded	Date of entry into force of the instrument	Countries/entities that had ratified/acceded to the instrument during the reporting period
Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, 1989	10 November 1998	122	5 May 1992	Belize, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Colombia, Dominica. Gambia, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Republic of Moldova, Thailand, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Venezuela.
Amendment to the Basel Convention, 1995	10 November 1998	12	Not yet in force	Denmark, Ecuador, European Community, Luxembourg, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992	10 November 1998	174	29 December 1993	Angola, Burundi, Gabon, Liechtenstein, Namibia, Tajikistan, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Turkey.
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 1992	10 November 1998	177	21 March 1994	Burundi, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Gabon, Rwanda, Singapore, South Africa, Suriname, Tajikistan, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga, Ukraine, Yugoslavia.
Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 1997	10 November 1998	2	Not yet in force	Antigua and Barbuda, Fiji.

Title of the instrument/year of adoption	Reporting period: from 11 Dec.1996 up to:	Total number of those ratified /acceded	Date of entry into force of the instrument	Countries/entities that had ratified/acceded to the instrument during the reporting period
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, 1994	10 November 1998	144	26 December 1996	Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Comoros, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, European Community, Fiji, France, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, Liberia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Niue, Pakistan, Paraguay, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tonga, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.
Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora, 1994	10 November 1998	6	10 December 1996	Congo, Kenya.
United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982	10 November 1998	128	16 November 1994	Benin, Chile, Equatorial Guinea, European Community, Gabon, Guatemala, Lao People's Democratic republic, Mozambique, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, Russian Federation, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Title of the instrument/year of adoption	Reporting period: from 11 Dec.1996 up to:	Total number of those ratified /acceded	Date of entry into force of the instrument	Countries/entities that had ratified/acceded to the instrument during the reporting period
Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, 1994	10 November 1998	93	16 November 1994	Benin, Chile, Equatorial Guinea, European Community, Gabon, Georgia, Guatemala, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mozambique, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Portugal, Russian Federation, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania.
Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, 1995	10 November 1998	18	Not yet in force	Bahamas, Fiji, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Namibia, Nauru, Norway, Russian Federation, Senegal, Seychelles, Solomon Islands.
Convention on the Law of Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses, 1997	10 November 1998	4	Not yet in force	Finland, Norway, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic.
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat, 1971	1 October 1998	113	21 December 1975	Bahamas, Bahrain, Belize, Colombia, Congo, Georgia, Jamaica, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Monaco, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Republic of Korea, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Ukraine.
Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 1972	1 October 1998	155	17 December 1975	Andorra, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Grenada, Papua New Guinea, South Africa, Suriname, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo.

Title of the instrument/year of adoption	Reporting period: from 11 Dec.1996 up to:	Total number of those ratified /acceded	Date of entry into force of the instrument	Countries/entities that had ratified/acceded to the instrument during the reporting period
Protocol of 1978 Relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as amended, 1978	27 October 1998	105	2 October 1983	Guatemala, Guyana, Malaysia, Mauritania, New Zealand, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Senegal, Sri Lanka.
Protocol of 1997 to Amend the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 Relating thereto, 1997	27 October 1998	1	Not yet in force	Sweden.
International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, 1969	27 October 1998	76	19 June 1975	Antigua and Barbuda, Costa Rica, Guyana, Mozambique.
Protocol [of 1976] to the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, 1969, 1976	27 October 1998	54	8 April 1981	Antigua and Barbuda, Costa Rica.
Protocol of 1992 to Amend the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, 1969, 1992	27 October 1998	39	30 May 1996	Algeria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Grenada, Ireland, Jamaica, Latvia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Venezuela.
International Convention Relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Oil Pollution Casualties, 1969	27 October 1998	72	6 May 1975	Guyana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mauritania.
Protocol Relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Pollution by Substances Other Than Oil, 1973, as amended	27 October 1998	41	30 March 1983	Mauritania, South Africa.

Title of the instrument/year of adoption	Reporting period: from 11 Dec.1996 up to:	Total number of those ratified /acceded	Date of entry into force of the instrument	Countries/entities that had ratified/acceded to the instrument during the reporting period
International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage, 1971	27 October 1998	52	16 October 1978	Antigua and Barbuda, Colombia, Guyana, Mozambique.
Protocol [of 1976] to the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage, 1971, 1976	27 October 1998	34	19 November 1976	Colombia.
Protocol of 1992 to Amend the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage, 1971, 1992	27 October 1998	37	30 May 1996	Algeria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Grenada, Ireland, Jamaica, Latvia, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Venezuela.
1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972, 1996	27 October 1998	2	Not yet in force	Denmark, Germany.
International Convention on Salvage, 1989	27 October 1998	26	14 July 1996	Australia, Croatia, Guyana, Netherlands.
International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, response and Cooperation, 1990	27 October 1998	40	13 May 1995	Brazil, Chile, China, Croatia, Djibouti, Guyana, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), malaysia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Title of the instrument/year of adoption	Reporting period: from 11 Dec.1996 up to:	Total number of those ratified /acceded	Date of entry into force of the instrument	Countries/entities that had ratified/acceded to the instrument during the reporting period
Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, 1997	13 October 1998	5	Not yet in force	Canada, Germany, Hungary, Norway, Slovakia.
Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, 1979	10 November 1998	43	16 March 1983	Armenia, Malta, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution on Long-term Financing of the Co-operative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe, 1984	10 November 1998	37	28 January 1988	Latvia, Malta.
Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution concerning the control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or Their Transboundary Fluxes, 1988	10 November 1998	26	14 February 1991	Greece.
Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution concerning the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds or Their Transboundary Fluxes, 1991	10 November 1998	17	29 September 1997	Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France.

Title of the instrument/year of adoption	Reporting period: from 11 Dec.1996 up to:	Total number of those ratified /acceded	Date of entry into force of the instrument	Countries/entities that had ratified/acceded to the instrument during the reporting period
Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions, 1994.	10 November 1998	21	5 August 1998	Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, European Community, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, 1991	10 November 1998	24	10 September 1997	Armenia, Canada, European Community, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Poland, Slovenia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, 1992	10 November 1998	23	6 October 1996	Denmark, France, Liechtenstein.
Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, 1992	10 November 1998	12	Not yet in force	Armenia, European Community, Germany, Greece, Spain.
Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wild Life to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, 1990	1 October 1998	6	Not yet in force	Colombia, Cuba, Venezuela.
Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, 1992	1 October 1998	8	Not yet in force	Lithuania.
International Plant Protection Convention, 1951	12 October 1998	97	3 April 1952	Bahamas.

Title of the instrument/year of adoption	Reporting period: from 11 Dec.1996 up to:	Total number of those ratified /acceded	Date of entry into force of the instrument	Countries/entities that had ratified/acceded to the instrument during the reporting period
Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas, 1993	12 October 1998	11	Not yet in force	Namibia.
Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, 1993	12 October 1998	16	26 March 1996	Malaysia, Thailand.
International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, 1969	12 October 1998	32	21 March 1969	Croatia, European Community, Italy, Tunisia.
Protocol Amending the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, 1984	12 October 1998	25	19 January 1997	Gabon, Italy.
Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, 1979	28 October 1998	37	1 June 1982	Czech Republic, Latvia.
European Convention on the Protection of Vertebrate Animals used for Experimental and other Scientific Purposes, 1986	28 October 1998	11	1 January 1991	Netherlands, European Community.
European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals, 1987	28 October 1998	12	1 May 1992	Czech Republic

Title of the instrument/year of adoption	Reporting period: from 11 Dec.1996 up to:	Total number of those ratified /acceded	Date of entry into force of the instrument	Countries/entities that had ratified/acceded to the instrument during the reporting period
Protocols 1, 2 and 3 to the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Rarotonga), 1986	1 October 1998	Protocol 1: 2 Protocol 2: 4 Protocol 3: 4	11 December 1986	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
Convention to Ban the Importation Into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous Wastes and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and management of hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region (Waigani Convention)	1 October 1998	4	Not yet in force	Australia

---